

TRANSACTION CONTROL IN AN
INFORMATION APPLIANCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Abstract

The present invention provides a universal information appliance management system capable of executing transactions, including financial transactions, across a distributed network. The present invention allows content/service providers to control distribution of the content or services they furnish, and provides novel business process features such as automatic micro-billing of events and instances wherein minuscule requests and tasks of very low value may be billed and monies collected where doing so was otherwise impractical. The information appliance management system also provides dynamic support for multiple simultaneous payment algorithms and for easily modifying or updating the payment algorithms as desired. Further, the present invention provides for automatic offline or online transactions with deferred connections such that payment for a transaction may be secured prior to actually completing the transaction such that the user may obtain the paid for content even without an immediate network connection. Additionally, the present invention provides central authentication of objects of the system such that one object may verify the validity of any other object.